

Open Space Preservation Committee
Tuesday, April 19, 2016
DRAFT Minutes
Mansfield Town Hall, Council Chamber
7:00p.m.

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm.

2. Attendance

Members present: Jim Morrow (chair), Ken Feathers, Quentin Kessel, Michael Soares, and Jennifer Kaufman (staff liaison).

Also in attendance: Bill Thorne (Parks Advisory Board); Terry Wollen (Ag. Committee); and special guests Amy Paterson, Esq. (Executive Director, CT Land Conservation Council), and Kevin Deneen (Town attorney).

3. Review of Minutes

Minutes of the March 2016 meeting were approved (Kessel, Soares).

4. Options for Permanently Preserving Town-owned land

Amy Paterson had been invited to this meeting to discuss options and answer questions regarding the preservation of Town-owned lands (Table 3.1 of *Mansfield Tomorrow: POCD* lists some of these sites and their preservation status). Amy began her remarks by saying that this problem – municipal lands, acquired with the intent to preserve as open space, but lacking actual preservation - is common in CT, and many towns are working to address it. The pro's and con's of a number of options were discussed, with valuable input offered by Kevin Deneen. It was agreed by OSPC members that future meetings will be used to discuss the options and develop strategies to be recommended to the Town. The Committee appreciates Amy and Kevin sharing their time and expertise with us.

5. Opportunity for public comment

No members of the public were present.

6. Old Business

Model Easement – Due to the length of discussion on preserving Town-owned land (#4, above), this item was tabled to the May meeting.

7. New Business

Storrs Center Open Space Trail – Jennifer provided an update on the hiking trail which will connect Storrs Center to existing trails in Whetton Woods (owned and managed by Joshua's Land Trust). OSPC members reviewed a plan of Storrs Center's most recent development phase, being the residential complex on the east side of Elsie Marsh Way. For public access to the trailhead, located near the planned "clubhouse," the developer is providing a pedestrian right-of way from Elsie Marsh Way along the private road (name?) leading to the clubhouse. Signs provided by the Town will direct hikers from Elsie Marsh Way to the trailhead. The developer is also responsible for constructing the trail's entrance and connecting it to the recently-completed section on Town land.

8. Communications

Minutes

- Conservation Commission
- PZC
- IWA

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:18.